



Vital Connections

Winter 1996-97

The newsletter for alumni and friends of the Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto

Another Faculty of Nursing first!

The First Chair in Nursing Research in Canada

On October 23, 1996, Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto announced the creation of the Heather M. Reisman Chair in Perinatal Nursing Research, the first nursing research chair ever established in Canada.

Created through a \$1 million gift from Heather M. Reisman and friends, matched by UofT, the endowed chair ensures the existence of a senior position in the Faculty of Nursing dedicated to perinatal nursing research in perpetuity. At the same time, it enables UofT to support a new faculty member in nursing, allowing renewal and maintenance of the Faculty's research strength for years to come. Both positions have a joint appointment with Mount Sinai Hospital's Department of Nursing.

At the heart of Heather Reisman's support of the chair is her belief that nurses play an important but sometimes overlooked role in



Lloyd Fogler, Dorothy Pringle, Theodore Freedman and Heather Reisman unveiling plaque at Mount Sinai Hospital

the health care system. Furthermore, she believes that the perinatal unit is one where good nursing care can make a significant difference in patient welfare.

The Chair will direct the Perinatal Nursing Research Unit located at Mount Sinai Hospital, as well as develop and conduct research and education at UofT's Faculty of Nursing on the care of childbearing women and their families.

The first incumbent is Professor Ellen Hodnett. Hodnett is cross-appointed to the Faculty of Nursing and the Department of Preventative Medicine and Biostatistics in the Division of Community Health of the Faculty of Medicine. She is a core investigator in the Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Unit of the UofT Centre for Women's Health Research. In addition, she has been recently appointed to the senior editorial team of the Pregnancy and Childbirth Group of the

Cochrane Collaboration. This is an international network of scientists, consumers and policy makers dedicated to preparing and disseminating systematic reviews of evidence about the effects of health care.

Hodnett began her career as a labour and delivery nurse, completing her Master's Degree in Nursing at UofT, and her PhD at UofT's Institute of Medical Science. Hodnett's research is international in scope with multidisciplinary teams working both locally and worldwide. Her particular areas of interest include evaluating the effectiveness of different forms of nursing care for childbearing women, assessing women's evaluations of their care during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as evaluating strategies to ensure that the most appropriate research findings guide health care decision-making.

continued on next page

Another first! *continued*

"This chair is extremely significant because it will ensure that we can maintain a strong research program in perinatal nursing," said Dr. Dorothy Pringle, Dean of Nursing. "It will also help raise awareness of the importance of nursing research in Canada."

The chair is named for Heather M. Reisman, who provided the lead gift and spearheaded the effort to raise \$1 million to fund the chair. UofT matched the gift.

"We have one of the best health care systems in the world, but the financial pressures are growing," Reisman said. "The individuals and corporations who donated to this endowment have recognized the need and should serve as examples to everyone who wants to see our system maintain and enhance its excellence."

Heather M. Reisman

Heather M. Reisman is the President and Chief Executive Officer of now! industries inc., an industrial company focused on creating value in book, music, and multi-media retailing, and fresh food product development and distribution.

As well as serving as a member of the Executive Committee of Mount Sinai Hospital, Ms. Reisman is currently a member of the Board of Advisors of the Harvard Business School and Chair of the Board of Vincor International (a publicly traded international wine company). She is married to Gerald Schwartz, Chief Executive Officer of Onex Corporation, and has four children and one grandchild.

Ellen Hodnett

Ellen Hodnett is a tenured full time Professor in the Faculty of Nursing. Since completing her PhD at the Institute of Medical Science in 1983, Dr. Hodnett has built a research program around three themes: (1) rigorous evaluation of the effectiveness of nursing interventions during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period; (2) evaluations of strategies to bridge gaps between research evidence and practice; and (3) incorporating childbearing women's views into evaluations of the effectiveness of perinatal care.

Dr. Hodnett has been the principal investigator on studies evaluating the effectiveness of (1) professional support during labour, (2) nursing interventions to assist breast-feeding mothers, and (3) a female-centred, community-based, early postpartum discharge program.



Ellen Hodnett

Donors

Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto are grateful to the following individuals and corporations who have supported the Heather M. Reisman Chair in Perinatal Nursing Research:

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✂ So, what are you up to? New job? Just married? Won an award or written a book or anything else that former classmates might be interested in? If so, please let us help you spread the news! Please bring us up-to-date by attaching your Alumni News and Comments to this form then mail to the address shown below and we'll try to publish it in the next newsletter. ✂

Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Graduating Year _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please check off as appropriate: ☐ I would like to be the class representative for my year ☐ This is my new address
☐ I am interested in volunteering with the FNAA ☐ Attached is my News

Mail to: Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association, University of Toronto, 50 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5S 3H4

Dean's Message: Fall of '96 -- Times, they are a changin'

The Bank of Montreal seems to have cornered the market on the above phrase much to the displeasure of many Bob Dylan fans. What they have not done is corner the market on change itself. The Faculty of Nursing is up to its eyeballs in change.

The most recent and best change that we have had is the establishment of the Heather M. Reisman Chair in Perinatal Nursing Research. Much of this newsletter is devoted to information about this Chair. The Faculty of Nursing has been trying for years to raise enough funds, i.e., \$2 million for a Research Chair but without success. About eighteen months ago, the University of Toronto announced a Matching Chairs Program. Faculties were encouraged to find ways of raising \$1 million which the University of Toronto would match with another million in order to create a Chair. This seemed like an ideal opportunity for Nursing. Since Mount Sinai Hospital has long been a close partner of the Faculty of Nursing, Mount Sinai was asked about its interest in assisting the Faculty to raise a million dollars. We identified perinatal nursing as the target for our joint Chair because it is a strong area of the Faculty and it is one of the core programs of Mount Sinai Hospital. Heather Reisman, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Mount Sinai Board, is a champion of nursing and nurses. Mount Sinai asked her if she would take on the challenge of raising a million dollars. The result was that within a year sufficient funds had been raised and the Heather M. Reisman Chair established. This is the first research Chair in nursing in Canada although there are many established in the United States.

On October 22, President J. Robert S. Prichard and Mr. Theodore J. Freedman, the President of Mount Sinai Hospital jointly hosted a dinner at President Prichard's home attended by eighty people

in order to recognize and thank Heather Reisman and introduce Dr. Ellen Hodnett as the first Chair holder. Ellen is one of the Faculty of Nursing's outstanding researchers. The next day, a large reception was held for the friends and members of the Faculty of Nursing and the nursing staff and friends of Mount Sinai Hospital. Both events were inspiring. Heather spoke to the importance of caring and the tendency in society to not value it. She noted that creating a chair in nursing is a very public way of acknowledging nursing and the importance of research to improve nursing and hence, to improve caring. Ellen described her work and that of others that demonstrated how support, a way of operationalizing caring, contributes to improved health of mothers and babies during the labour and delivery process. This improved health has direct economic benefit for the hospitals where these babies are born. We hope that the Heather M. Reisman Chair is only the first of several chairs that will be created for the Faculty.

The other big changes involve our educational programs. We essentially are reinventing ourselves in terms of the programs that we are offering. We have decided that after fifty-three years, we will no longer offer the four-year program leading to the BScN. Instead, we are planning to offer a second-entry or upper division program to students who have at least two years of arts and science. Many, we expect, will have a four-year arts and science degree. Students will be able to leave after two years with a BScN degree or stay for a third year and exit with an MN degree. By moving to a second-entry program, we join all of the other health science professional programs at the University of Toronto (MD, DDS, OT, PT, Pharmacy) that adopted this type of program.

As well, in the fall of 1997 we plan to admit students to a master's program

leading to preparation as either an adult or pediatric acute care nurse practitioner. We also are in the planning phase of a new joint program with the Faculty of Management that will lead to MN/MBA degrees after three years. Expansion of our PhD program is also on our agenda. We have entered a consortium with the University of Alberta and the University of British Columbia to make our doctoral programs available by distance learning across Canada. Dr. Ginette Rodger of the University of Alberta is heading up this project.

Clearly we are moving to graduate education as our major arena of activity. However, by continuing to offer a second-entry BScN program we will remain current with the forces that impact on under-graduate nursing education.

We are very cognisant of the massive restructuring that is occurring in the health care system and the impact that it is having on nurses. Many nurses are losing their jobs and the employment prospects for our new graduates are bleak in the short run if they choose to work in Ontario. However, we firmly believe that graduates of our program are prepared for the changes that are occurring and have much to offer the health care system. While many of them will be forced to relocate for a few years in order to secure employment, their intermediate and long term prospects for employment are excellent. Relocation and experience in other settings in Canada and potentially in other countries can be very broadening and enriching and we encourage our students to be adventurous.

I would be delighted to hear from alumni concerning their views of our planned program offerings and the health care system. My e-mail address is dorothy.pringle@utoronto.ca and, my telephone number is 978-2862.

President's Message

22 ... 27 ... 32 ...

Vital Connections

There is nothing more constant than change. It seems like we are always seeking to improve, to make things better than they are. This year the Alumni Executive decided to change the distribution and timing of *Vital Connections* in an effort to provide you with more timely news and event happenings. Since we made changes to our alumni newsletter three years ago, feedback has been very positive and encouraging. We hope by distributing *Vital Connections* three times a year through the *UofT Magazine* we will be able to provide you with up-to-date faculty and alumni news and events.

It is expected that the cost will be equal to or less than it cost for us to distribute our newsletter only once a year. This newsletter is made possible through the donations of nursing alumni and friends to the University of Toronto Nursing Annual Fund. I hope that you will all choose to make a donation to the Nursing Annual Fund before March 31, 1997. Why? Because until March 31, 1997 the Province of Ontario, through the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund, will match each dollar donated to the university's student aid endowment. Interest from the endowment will provide student aid now and in years to come.

If you make a donation before the end of March, UofT will be able to triple the impact of your gift, by providing an additional match. Each dollar donated to student aid will be matched twice, once by the province and once by the university, turning your one dollar into three. Please call (416) 978-UofT (8638) to make your pledge. I have made my gift, please make yours and help future students attend our Faculty of Nursing.

Agnese Bianchi

No, these are not measurements, they are some of the years that will be invited back to University of Toronto for Spring Reunion '97. If you graduated from Nursing in a year that ends in a 2 or 7, between 1922 and 1992, this reunion is for you! Mark these dates -- June 5 - 8, 1997 -- in your calendar for the university-wide and faculty events.

Did you know that only 22 per cent of people polled in a recent worldwide survey said that going to their class reunion means a "good time"? We hope that our Nursing alumni will be more enthusiastic about reunions. You can show your interest by helping us to plan the 1997 reunion. We need class representatives who will contact their classmates, encourage them to attend our faculty reunion, plan class reunions and stir up some excitement. If this sounds like it has the makings of a "good time" to you, then please call the Nursing Alumni Office at (416) 978-4786. We look forward to hearing from you!

So, what are you up to ...
will return in the next issue.

Seminars for Nursing alumni

The Faculty of Nursing is currently organizing seminar topics specifically for our alumni. If either of these topics are of interest to you, please contact the Office of Gift Planning at (416) 978-8990.

- ☐ Wills and Estates
- ☐ Creative ways of giving to the Faculty of Nursing

... is published by the University of Toronto Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association. The FNAA also supports scholarships and programs for both alumni and students. These are made possible through your gifts to the University of Toronto Nursing Annual Fund. Please consider becoming an annual contributor.

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CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association, University of Toronto
& Sigma Theta Tau, Lambda Pi Chapter
PRESENT

RESEARCH '97

*Meeting the Challenge of Creating and Sustaining Evidence-
Based Nursing Programs:
Examples from a Community Health Nurse Researcher*

Keynote Address by: Nancy Edwards, University of Ottawa

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Instructions for Submitting an Abstract

This is an invitation for you to submit an abstract for Research '97. Research '97 provides an opportunity to share nursing research from different work settings and areas of patient care such as: administration, education, policy development, informatics, care for the caregiver and patient/client/family care. We would also welcome abstracts covering any other research relevant to nursing. General criteria for evaluation of abstracts will include originality of ideas, concise presentation of methods and findings, and clarity of theoretical/applied implications. Three presentation formats will be available: oral paper, poster and symposium.

Oral Paper and Poster

All formats are considered of equal status. Preference of format will be considered but cannot be guaranteed. Abstracts must consist of recently completed research that has not been published. The abstract should include:

- (a) A title in CAPITAL LETTERS of no more than 10 words,
- (b) A statement of the purpose/problem,
- (c) A description of the methods used,
- (d) A summary of the results,
- (e) A statement of the conclusion(s)/implications.

Oral papers will be 15 minutes in length with 10 minutes for discussion. Posters will be available for viewing throughout the day, with the author(s) present for a 1-hour period that will be specified.

Work in Progress **New this Year**

This is an opportunity for students and others to present work that is not completed but well along the way. This could include pilot work, instrument development, concept analysis, development of a methodology or any other research project in progress. Work in progress will be presented in poster format. Abstracts must include the problem, purpose, method and, if available, preliminary results.

Symposia

A symposium involves a group of presentations on a specific theme of major importance in nursing. The symposium will consist of no more than three individuals that could include two presenters and one discussant or three presenters. The symposium is organized by one of the presenters (i.e. chairperson) who is responsible for submitting the abstract for peer review and pulling the papers and discussion together so they relate to each other and the theme.

Symposia abstracts must describe the overall symposium presentation and presenters. The proposal also must include a short overview of each paper which includes a description of the objectives for each presentation within the symposium, for review purposes only. These short overviews will not be printed. The symposium abstract should include:

- (a) A title in CAPITAL LETTERS of no more than 10 words,
- (b) The name of the chairperson and complete mailing address,
- (c) The names and affiliations of participants,
- (d) A title for each presentation,
- (e) The major objective for each presentation, and
- (f) A summary integrating all proposed presentations.

The symposium will last for a total of 90 minutes. Each presentation will be approximately 15-20 minutes to allow time for a discussion/discussant.

Submission Instructions for all formats

1. A maximum of 200 words may be submitted. If references are used, they must fit within the 200 words and should conform to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 4th edition, 1994.
2. The abstract must be typed on a single 8 1/2" by 11" page using single spacing throughout and 12 pt font only. Margins must be a minimum of 1" (2.5 cm) on all four sides of the page. We reserve the right to make minor modifications in order to comply with the format for publication in the Abstract Book.
3. Mail three (3) typed copies of the abstract, plus an IBM compatible disk in WordPerfect or Microsoft Word marked with your name and address. ***On one copy only*** THE TITLE should be followed in lower case type by the names of the authors and complete mailing address, telephone number and fax number of the author who should receive correspondence. Submit abstracts to: **Denise Eckert, MIRU, 790 Bay St, #712, Toronto, Ont M5G 1N8 - Tel: (416) 351-3774 / Fax (416) 351-3771**
4. **All abstracts must be received by Friday, January 17, 1997.** Authors will be notified by February 15, 1997 of the committee's decision.
5. All presentations will be in English.
6. Presenters will be required to register for the conference.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Many nurses who graduated from the University of Toronto since the inception of the Nursing Program have made an outstanding contribution to the profession. Some of these individuals have received international, national or provincial recognition, others are acknowledged by colleagues as outstanding nurses who inspire their peers, but they are not known beyond their workplace.

The Nursing Alumni Association bestows the Distinguished Alumni Award to acknowledge, annually, a graduate of the Faculty of Nursing who has made an exceptional contribution to nursing in some capacity. We expect to recognize some graduates who are well known within nursing and health care circles and others who are "local heroes."

The criteria that should guide your decision to nominate someone are:

1. Has pursued a career in nursing with enthusiasm and energy.
2. Is recognized by peers as outstanding in terms of clinical practice, teaching, research, policy development or administration.
3. Projects a positive image of nursing as a career.
4. Has current knowledge of issues, directions and developments in nursing.
5. Makes you proud to know her/him as a nurse and as a U of T graduate.

The Distinguished Alumni Selection Committee will review all nominations and recommend one to the Alumni Executive to receive the Award.

The Award will be presented at the Annual General Meeting during Spring Reunion in June of 1997.

Previous winners of this Award are: Myrna Slater (1991), Josephine Flaherty (1992), Eleanor Ross (1993), Denise Alcock (1994), Linda Lee O'Brien-Pallas (1994), Bettina Braj (1995), and Gail Mitchell (1996).

Please turn over and use this form to nominate an alumna(us) you believe deserves recognition from the Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association.

The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, February 14, 1997.

Distinguished Alumni Award Nomination Form

(Please type or print clearly)

Name of nominee _____ Year graduated _____

Address _____

Current employer & position _____

Professional history (provide as much information as possible)

(a) Employment history

(b) Scholarships/awards received

(c) Professional publications

(d) Community/political involvement

(e) Additional information

Nominator _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Return to Faculty of Nursing Alumni Association
University of Toronto
50 St. George Street
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3H4
Telephone (416) 978-4786, Fax (416) 978-8222

Nominations must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 1997